

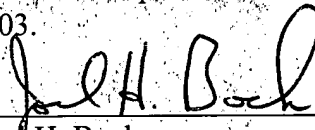
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: William E. Blaha] Examiner: Truc T. T. Nguyen
Serial No.: 09/492,369] Art Unit 2833
Filed: January 27, 2000]
For: WIRE CONNECTOR WITH]
EXTENSION]

#18
1-21-03
Jen

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 7, 2003.


Joel H. Bock
Registration No. 29,045

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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RESPONSE

Sir:

Claims 1-8 are remaining in the application.

It is respectfully submitted that Sowinski 6,135,805 neither anticipates nor renders the claimed invention obvious after properly considering the claims limitations. Sowinski '805 discloses an insulation displacement device for wire termination having a body portion 12 and legs 14 extending from the body portion for piercing the insulating jacket of a wire. Each leg 14 has a fork 44 and also has a lower compression side 28 and an upper force application side 30.

It is presumed in the Office action that Sowinski's body portion 12 discloses an electrically conductive clip which is disposed in a cavity defined by a housing and held fixed in the housing by the housing walls. This is simply not satisfied by Sowinski's body portion. Only the legs 14 are disposed in the chambers 70 defined by the housing 15. The body portion 12 is disposed outside of the chambers 70 and thus is located outside of the housing 15. In Figs. 2 and

4-6, the body portion 12 is clearly positioned outside the housing 15 and outside the chambers 70. The body portion merely rests on a planar attachment surface 98 to the left of a fulcrum 100 (col. 3, lines 54-60). So any electrical joining of the two or more incoming wires occurs outside the housing, which is entirely different from the electrical connection provided by the claimed invention.

Even if one would interpret the legs 14 as the claimed clip, these legs do not comply with the claimed limitations either. The legs 14 extend outside of the housing 15 and join together at a location outside of the housing. The base of each leg 14 joins to a plate 20 of the body portion 12 at a location laterally aligned with the furthest or leftmost edge of the apertures 38, as seen in Figs. 1, 2 and 6, and this location is clearly outside of the housing 15. So the legs certainly do not electrically join each conductor of the two or more incoming wires inside the housing 15.

The legs 14 are further not held fixed in the housing by the side walls 88. Instead the legs are torqued within their respective chambers 70 relative to the fulcrum 100. Each leg 14 moves relative to the side walls 88. Movement of each leg 14 is achieved by pressing a tool 84 through a passage 82 in the top of the housing 15. The legs 14 are only fixed to the housing 15 indirectly by attachment to the body portion 12 outside of the defined chambers 70. Sowinski's legs therefore do not teach or suggest the electrically conductive clip as defined in claim 1.

It is further presumed in the Office action that Sowinski's general instruction of a conventional wire attachment 18 discloses the claimed conductive extension which is in shorting engagement with the clip and which further extends through a housing wall to an exterior of the housing. Applicant respectfully believes this interpretation of Sowinski' 805 is overreaching. Sowinski's wire attachment 18 does not extend through any housing wall. The wire attachment 18 connects to the body portion 12 outside the housing 15. No part of the wire attachment 18 is

ever shown as extending through the housing walls. So it logically follows that any shorting electrical connection between the wire attachment 18 and the body portion 12 must occur outside the housing. For these reasons, it is believed that claim 1 is further distinguishable over Sowinski '805.

Claims 7 and 8 are also believed to be distinguishable for similar reasons. These method claims provide a conductive clip located inside the insulative housing and a conductive extension which is electrically shorted to the clip and which extends to the exterior of the housing. As stated above, nothing of this sort is taught or suggested in Sowinski '805.

Moreover, each of the methods recited in claims 7 and 8 allow electrical connection between two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus. Sowinski '805 lacks this suggestion. The wire attachment 18 is attached to an electrical lead in an undisclosed manner. How can Sowinski suggest that the terminal 10 is effective in electrically connecting two or more wires to a common terminus? It is not clear what kind of connection the wire attachment 18 is actually achieved with the electrical lead. Absent applicant's disclosure, any suggestion resulting from Sowinski '805 can not anticipate the claimed invention and would not render it obvious because to do so would be an improper exercise in hindsight-based obviousness. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of these reasons.

Dependent claims 2-6 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are believed to contain allowable subject matter for the same reasons. In addition, it is believed that certain dependent claims should be allowed on independent bases.

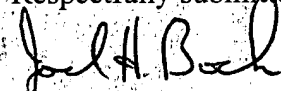
Relative to the subject matter of claim 3, applicant correctly understands Sowinski '805 to lack a two-part housing which includes a base and a cap. It is presumed that the top surface of the housing 15 serves as a cap. This reliance is misplaced. Any top surface that Sowinski's

device hardly can be described as a cap. A "cap" is generally defined as a covering structure. Sowinski's top surface provides no such covering structure, as the top surface is largely non-existent. It is predominated by open passages 82 providing access to each leg 14. These passages far and away trump any alleged covering structure provided by the top surface. Nor it is obvious to remove the passages because their presence permits introduction of the tool 84, and the tool is necessary to provide pressing force to each leg 14 in order to drive the wires into their IDC type clips. So any suggestion of a cap is counterintuitive because a cap would obstruct the path of the tool. It is therefore further believed that Sowinski '805 fails to teach or suggest the claimed two part housing including a cap and a base.

As to claim 5, Sowinski '805 does not disclose a blade-type terminal. Sowinski's disclosure does not set forth how the wire attachment 18 of the terminal 10 is connected to an electrical lead. Certainly, Sowinski fails to explain how the shape of the wire attachment 18 interacts with an electrical lead (col. 2, lines 35-38). The most that Sowinski can be said to teach is shown by Fig. 1 which, if anything, suggests that a wire must be inserted between the planar and angled surfaces comprising the wire attachment 18. Clearly this is different from the claimed blade-type terminal which is shown in Figs. 1-3 and 5-6.

It is submitted that the above amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the application is resubmitted for reconsideration. A favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket: IDEAL 413

January 7, 2003

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)

Applicant(s): William E. Blaha

Docket No.

Ideal 413

Serial No.
09/492,369Filing Date
1/27/2000Examiner
Truc T. T. NguyenGroup Art Unit
2833

Invention: WIRE CONNECTOR WITH EXTENSION

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

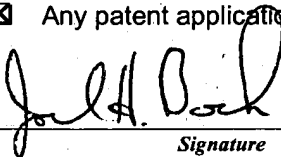
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

| | CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT | HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR | NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT | RATE | ADDITIONAL FEE |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS | 8 | 20 = | 0 x | \$18.00 | \$0.00 |
| INDEP. CLAIMS | 3 | 3 = | 0 x | \$84.00 | \$0.00 |
| Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT | | | | | \$0.00 |

- ☒ No additional fee is required for amendment.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
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- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.


Signature

Dated: January 7, 2003

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